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July 12, 2012

The Honorable Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing today regarding the strategic basing selection criteria for the Air Force's newest refueling aircraft, the KC-46A. As your team moves forward with a comprehensive enterprise-wide look and validation of candidates for fleet basing, I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support for the Air National Guard base at Pittsburgh International Airport in Coraopolis, Pa for Main Operating Base #2.

Pittsburgh's strategic location, certain to score well in the Air Refueling Receiver Demand Model, coupled with the outstanding facilities (hanger, runway, ramp) and support of both the existing Air National Guard unit (171st Air Refueling Wing) and the civilian community gives me every hope that this base will compete well in the selection criteria. Some of the 171st's accolades include:

- One of the most tasked units for U.S. Defense Alert Missions (NOBLE EAGLE)
- Highest flight time of all ANG KC-135 units (2010-2011)
- Lead wing for ODYSSEY DAWN/UNIFIED PROTECTOR in Libya
- Named TOP ANG Unit for 2011 by the Air Force Association
- Received Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for 2011

As a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am energized about moving forward with this much-needed program of record. As a Pennsylvanian, it is my sincere desire that Pennsylvania will ultimately be selected for MOB #2 and lead the way in the integration of this new and exciting platform into our nation's military. Again, I appreciate your leadership and meticulous attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M S Critz', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark Critz
Member of Congress